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Letter dated 6 November 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government and further to my letter dated 2 November 1998, I have the honour to draw Your Excellency's attention to new violations of the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus and of the flight information region (FIR) of Nicosia by military aircraft of the Turkish Air Force, recorded on 5 November 1998.

On that day, five military aircraft (four F-4s and one low-velocity aircraft) of the Turkish Air Force entered the northern Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations. Thereafter, the four F-4s exited towards the Ankara FIR. The low-velocity aircraft violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Mesaoria, landing afterwards at the illegal airport of Tymbou in the occupied area of the Republic before returning back to the Ankara FIR on the same day.

As stated in my previous letters, such unauthorized intrusions into the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus are in violation of international air traffic rules, and at the same time they are in contravention to the provisions of the Security Council resolutions on Cyprus, in which the Council states that such overflights increase tension on the island and undermine efforts towards achieving a final settlement.

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus, I wish to strongly protest these new provocative acts by Turkey against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Cyprus. The frequency, intensity and large number of aircraft involved in the above, as well as the latest violations, are a further reminder of Turkey's offensive disregard of international law, the Charter of the United Nations and all the relevant decisions of the Organization on the question of Cyprus.

Furthermore, these continuing overflights by the Turkish Air Force, as well as the presence of the Turkish military occupation forces on the island, constitute the underlying causes of tension in Cyprus.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Sotos ZACKHEOS
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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